

Cavendish News

Friday 8th May 2015

www.cavendish.manchester.sch.uk

www.cavendishpta.org.uk

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IMPORTANT SAFETY CONCERNS

We know that most of you share our concerns about the behaviour of a small minority of parents and carers who drop off or collect children at Cavendish. We have been out on the streets observing, taking photographs and talking to some of the people who park unsafely and/or illegally. ***Thank you to those who have already responded by parking further away.*** We feel it's appropriate to make a few clear statements about our views on what we have seen and heard:

- It is **not okay** to drive down narrow residential streets that have no parking spaces, and then to have to reverse out to get back onto a main road. You are causing an obstruction and people can't see past you to cross safely, including the children. You are also blocking in the residents of those streets.
- It is **not okay** to park on double yellow lines – in fact, it's illegal and yes, we **are** taking photographs and submitting them to the civil enforcement officers at Manchester, so be aware that you risk being fined if you persist in doing it.
- It is **not okay** to park at the main gates on the zig zag markings; that too is illegal and we'll report you if we see you doing this. Furthermore, when you block the main entrance you also block off the disabled parking bay, which is selfish and inconsiderate.
- It is **not okay** to pull right into the main entrance of school and park there – it's a pedestrian route into school and you are endangering children's lives.
- It's **plain dangerous** to let your child exit your vehicle directly onto a road. On Thursday this week, a girl was allowed to do this and an oncoming driver had to perform an emergency stop to avoid hitting her. Please be aware of the danger that you put your child in when you let them cross the road. For heaven's sake, **there is a pelican crossing about 40 metres from where this particular child was nearly knocked over! She should have been using it.**

Please think about your behaviour. Do you ***really*** have to drop off your child so close to school? Would a short walk hurt them? The answer to those questions is a resounding **NO**. Allow a little more time in the morning to come to school, park further away and walk in – this would keep the area around school much safer. It's a collective responsibility to keep all of our children safe and most of you are brilliant at it, but actually we need **ALL** of you to be brilliant at it. Please let us know if you see dangerous and unacceptable driving/parking behaviour, send in photos of illegally parked vehicles and we will report them to the council. Our school is growing – there are 588 pupils here, and in September that will rise to 618. By 2018, we will have 708 children arriving at school each day. If we don't act together now to make the roads safe, we may live to regret it. This letter is posted on the website and on social media – please share it widely.

If you are interested in setting up a walking bus to encourage more children come to school on foot, please contact us. We have tried to do this before but didn't have enough volunteers to run it safely 5 days per week. It would be great to get it established if enough people come forward.

CHANGE OF DATE

The date of our Sex and Relationships Education meeting has changed to May 20th. Parents and carers of children in Years 4, 5 and 6 should have received notification about this already.

THANK YOU

Thank you for a magnificent response to our Nepal Earthquake Appeal last Friday. The total amount of money raised in school was **£935.46** – this is an overwhelming response to a situation that has touched many of our hearts. The money has been sent to the Disasters Emergencies Committee to help with the relief work.



CAVENDISH HAS A NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER

Our antiquated phone system has been replaced. No longer will people on the other end of the phone sound like daleks! As a result, our telephone number has changed with effect from Mon 11th May. Please store our new number in your mobile and write it down at home. For a short period, there will be an automatic divert function on the old number, but our advice is to start using the new number straight away.

It is:

0161 445 1815

WELL DONE

One of our young pupils had great success in her ballet exam recently, achieving a score of 88. She proudly brought in her certificate and trophy to show us.



YEAR 6 SATs NEXT WEEK

Next week, Year 6 pupils across England will be doing tests in reading, maths, and grammar, spelling and punctuation. We refer to these tests as SATs. If your child is in Year 6, please ensure that they get to bed early on Sunday and throughout the week so that are fresh and energised each morning. Make sure they arrive at school in plenty of time so they are not in a last minute rush. We will be serving breakfast from 8.15am if they want to eat here with their friends – we'll leave that up to you to decide at home. The results will be back in July. Children's writing is not tested; instead, it is assessed by their teachers.

Year 2 have also been busy with their SATs, but these are administered informally in small groups with their teachers. Many of the children don't even know they are having tests. Key Stage 1 test results are used as part of teacher assessment, but the teacher has the final say on which level each child is working at – we all know that test results don't always reflect a child's true ability, whereas a teacher who has worked with children all year knows precisely where they are at. Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 will have internal tests in a few weeks, and Year 1 children will undertake the phonics screening w.b. 15th June.